



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/944,278	08/30/2001	Albert Gouyet	NETS0074	1879
22862	7590	07/19/2007	EXAMINER	
GLENN PATENT GROUP 3475 EDISON WAY, SUITE L MENLO PARK, CA 94025			WU, RUTAO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3628	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			07/19/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/944,278	GOUYET ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Rob Wu	3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 April 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8,10-34,36-56,61 and 66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8,10-34,36-56,61 and 66 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of claims

1. In response filed April 05 2007, the applicant amended claims 1 and 27. Claims 1-8, 10-34, 36-56, 61 and 66 are pending in the application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see page 15, filed April 05 2007, with respect to claims 1, 27 and 53 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The U.S.C. §112 second paragraph rejection of claim 1, 27 and 53 has been withdrawn.
3. Applicant's arguments filed April 05 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding claim 27, the applicant argues that Tagawa (U.S. Pat No. 5,732,398) does not disclose or teach "automatically determining a context from said received request for travel information," or "automatically searching according to the determined context, without any interaction with a human agent." The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Tagawa discloses a system comprising a plurality of regional reservation centers spread out geographically, each center having a geographical region and a database including information on travel services and products within its region, (col 5: lines 59-63) and for example, regional reservation 1 may be located in Hawaii as its region, with a set of kiosks 50 located in Hawaii and connected to center 1 by means of two-way communication links 52. (col 8: lines 66-67; col 9: lines 1-2) Tagawa further

discloses as an example of his invention that if the user presses the button for local or intrastate tour packages 216, CPU 78 would activate the routing therefor as illustrated in FIGS. 7A-7C. Following the audio visual introduction to local and intrastate tour packages, a menu will appear listing the major packages (blocks 400, 402). For example, in the Hawaii market, the major tour packages will be trips between the islands. From the island of Oahu, tours will be offered to Kauai, Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Hawaii (the Big Island). (col 14: lines 16-24) From this disclosure it is obvious that when a user interacts with Tagawa's kiosk and enters request for travel information for local or intrastate tour packages, the context is automatically determined. The context is automatically determined that the user is interested in traveling within the Hawaii islands. Then a search is done automatically without interaction with a human agent, and a list of possible results is presented to the user. Therefore, Tagawa teaches "automatically determining a context from said received request for travel information, without using any user provided information other than said received request and without prompting said end user to enter any additional information; automatically searching a database according to said query and context for a search result, without any interaction with a human agent." As directed by claim 27.

With regards to claim 1, the Applicant argues that Tagawa does not discuss "determining a context from said received request for travel information automatically, without using any user provided information other than said received request and without prompting said end user to enter any additional information." The Applicant cites col 14, lines 21-24 and 38-40 of Tagawa as evidence, and further stating that in

Tagawa, no context is automatically determined from a limited set of information, but instead the user is prompted multiple times to continue entering additional information throughout the tour purchase process. The Examiner respectfully disagrees with the Applicant's interpretation of Tagawa. The main point that the Applicant is arguing is that Tagawa does not automatically determine a context from received request for travel information, without using any user provided information other than said received request and without prompting said end user to enter any additional information and searching a database automatically according to said query and said context for a search result. However, Tagawa discloses a system comprising a plurality of regional reservation centers spread out geographically, each center having a geographical region and a database including information on travel services and products within its region, (col 5: lines 59-63) and for example, regional reservation 1 may be located in Hawaii as its region, with a set of kiosks 50 located in Hawaii and connected to center 1 by means of two-way communication links 52. (col 8: lines 66-67; col 9: lines 1-2)

Tagawa further discloses as an example of his invention that if the user presses the button for local or intrastate tour packages 216, CPU 78 would activate the routing therefor as illustrated in FIGS. 7A-7C. Following the audio visual introduction to local and intrastate tour packages, a menu will appear listing the major packages (blocks 400, 402). For example, in the Hawaii market, the major tour packages will be trips between the islands. From the island of Oahu, tours will be offered to Kauai, Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Hawaii (the Big Island). (col 14: lines 16-24) From this disclosure it is obvious that when a user interacts with Tagawa's kiosk and enters request for travel

information for local or intrastate tour packages, the context is automatically determined. The context is automatically determined that the user is interested in traveling within the Hawaii islands. Then a search is done automatically without interaction with a human agent, and a list of possible results, island tours, is presented to the user. Therefore, Tagawa teaches "automatically determining a context from said received request for travel information, without using any user provided information other than said received request and without prompting said end user to enter any additional information; automatically searching a database according to said query and context for a search result, without any interaction with a human agent." As directed by claim 1.

As for the Applicant's argument that the user in Tagawa is prompted multiple times to continue entering additional information throughout the tour purchase process, the Examiner notes that Tagawa indeed prompts the user multiple times for additional information throughout the tour purchase process, but those additional information are used to complete the tour purchase and has nothing to do with the automatically determination of the context. The context is determine when the user requests information for local or intrastate tour packages, before any additional information is requested from the user. It is automatically determined that the context is the Hawaiian Islands, and the user's interest in touring said islands. The Examiner would like to point to Applicant's own Figure 6. Figure 6 shows an example of a search results web page for the interest skiing. As it can be seen, when the user searches for skiing, the context is determined that the user is interested in skiing and results regarding skiing are returned to the user. It can also be seen that prompts requiring further user input are

also presented to the user, i.e. air travel, car rentals, more information for events. Certainly, if the user wants to complete a skiing trip, the user would have to enter more information for air travel or car rentals or both. This is exactly the same as Tagawa's disclosure. In both the Applicant's example and Tagawa's invention, the user is prompted multiple times to continue entering additional information, not for automatic determination of the context purposes, but for continuing and completing the travel purchase process.

Regarding claim 53, the Applicant notes that the Examiner's rejection of Claims 53-56 appears to be directed to a pervious *[sic]* version of claim 53, prior to the amendments made thereto by the Applicant in the submission filed October 24, 2006. However, after looking over the previous office action it is determined that the rejection is based on the amendments made by the Applicant in the submission filed on October 24, 2006. The Examiner notes that the rejection in the previous office action of claims 27-29, 34, 36-40, and 44-52 are directed to the previous version of claim 27. The reason for directing the rejection to a previous version of claim 27 is due to the U.S.C. §112 second paragraph rejection of claims 1, 27 and 53, as it was unclear how a context can be determined from received request for travel information if such information is not entered. The Applicant has responded to the U.S.C. §112 rejection and therefore, the U.S.C. §112 second paragraph rejection of claims 1, 27 and 53 has been withdrawn.

Regarding claim 53, the Applicant argues that Tagawa does not disclose or teach "automatically determining a context from said received request for travel information,

without prompting said end user to end information; wherein said context comprises at least an interest and a destination; performing a first query of said at least one internal travel information database-according to said interest, without any interaction with a human agent.” Tagawa discloses as an example of his invention that if the user presses the button for local or intrastate tour packages 216, CPU 78 would activate the routing therefor as illustrated in FIGS. 7A-7C. Following the audio visual introduction to local and intrastate tour packages, a menu will appear listing the major packages (blocks 400, 402). For example, in the Hawaii market, the major tour packages will be trips between the islands. From the island of Oahu, tours will be offered to Kauai, Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Hawaii (the Big Island). (col 14: lines 16-24) From this disclosure it is obvious that when a user interacts with Tagawa’s kiosk and enters request for travel information for local or intrastate tour packages, the context is automatically determined. The context comprises an interest in touring the location of the Hawaiian Islands. Then a search is done automatically without interaction with a human agent, and a list of possible results, island tours, is presented to the user. Therefore, Tagawa teaches “automatically determining a context from said received request for travel information, without prompting said end user to end information; wherein said context comprises at least an interest and a destination; performing a first query of said at least one internal travel information database-according to said interest, without any interaction with a human agent.” As directed by claim 53

As for the Applicant’s argument on the reason of obviousness for Tagawa to perform multiple queries if the first query is unsuccessful, the examiner recognizes that

obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, it is known to one of ordinary skill in the art that companies do not want to loose customers and will try to do everything they can to satisfy the customer. Therefore it would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Tagawa modify the invention to perform multiple queries to ensure that the customer can be satisfied. Tagawa would be motivated to do so because he would not want to loose potential customers. Therefore, claim 53 stand rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-3, 8, 10-12, 14, 18-29, 34, 36-40, 44-52, 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat No. 5,732,398 to Tagawa.

Referring to claim 1:

A system for providing travel information to an end user in an intelligent way using a search result, said system comprising:

A server configured to receive a request for travel information and to process said request into a query; (col 4: lines 7-10) and

A feed retrieval system configured to receive content from a plurality of internal and external partners, (col 10: lines 17-20, 24-31, Fig 2c)

A database coupled to said feed retrieval system. (Fig 2c)

Wherein said content is categorized, customized, and stored in said database.
(col 10: lines 24-31)

Tagawa does not expressly disclose a context determination module. However, Tagawa discloses as an example of his invention that if the user presses the button for local or intrastate tour packages 216, CPU 78 would activate the routing therefor as illustrated in FIGS. 7A-7C. Following the audio visual introduction to local and intrastate tour packages, a menu will appear listing the major packages (blocks 400, 402). For example, in the Hawaii market, the major tour packages will be trips between the islands. From the island of Oahu, tours will be offered to Kauai, Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Hawaii (the Big Island). (col 14: lines 16-24) From this disclosure it is obvious that when a user interacts with Tagawa's kiosk and enters request for travel information for local or intrastate tour packages, the context is automatically determined. Without the user entering any additional information other than the travel information request, the context is automatically determined that the user is interested in traveling within the Hawaii islands. Then a search is done automatically without interaction with a human agent, and a list of possible results is presented to the user.

A searching module configured to search said database automatically, according to said query and said context, for a search result. (col 14: lines 38-40)

Wherein said search result is obtained by said searching module from said database without any integration with a human agent. (col 14: lines 35-61)

Wherein said search result comprises said travel information in a singular, concise and consistent format, thereby providing ease of use for an end user (Fig 12)

A result returning module configured to return said search result to said end user (col 4: lines 25-27)

Referring to claim 2:

The system of Claim 1, wherein said feed retrieval system organizes said content for efficient storage by said database for easy retrieval. (col 10: lines 24-31)

Referring to claim 3:

The system of Claim 2, said feed retrieval system further comprising:
a rules-based engine for said obtaining said content from said internal and external partners and storing said content into said database in a format used by a search engine. (col 4: lines 10-14, 24-27)

Referring to claim 8:

The system of Claim 1, further comprising:
lookup table for determining matches to facilitate processing said request into said query. (col 4: lines 11-14, 24-27)

Referring to claim 10:

The system of Claim 1, said context determination module further comprising:

A plurality of context determining categories;(col 4: lines 23-25, 36-38, 64-66; col 5: lines 22-33) and

Means for determining at least one context determining category. (col 14: lines 39-40)

Referring to claim 11:

Wherein said plurality of context determining categories comprises at least:

A destination; and

An interest. (col 14: lines 16-17)

Referring to claim 12:

The system of Claim 1, said search result comprising the following travel categories:

Destination guides; canned keywords; local events; low air fares; hot deals; and lodging. (col 10: lines 60-64)

Referring to claim 14:

The system of Claim 13, wherein said dynamic information comprises any of: low air fares; a hot deal and; a fare watch. (col 10: line 25-29)

Referring to claim 18:

The system of Claim 1, further comprising a local escapes feature, wherein said local escapes features uses a home location to provide particular travel information. (col 4: lines 33-35, 42-45)

Referring to claim 19:

The system of Claim 18,further comprising:

Means for determining said home location when not provided by an end user.

(col 11: lines 1-4)

Referring to claim 20:

The system of Claim 18, wherein said home location is selected from a list of predetermined home locations. (col 8: lines 55-60; col 9: lines 10-15)

Referring to claim 21:

The system of Claim 20, wherein said list of predetermined home locations comprises: at least fifty predetermined cities or home airports. (col 9: lines 10-15)

Referring to claim 22:

The system of Claim 18, wherein said provided travel information comprises any of: a fare watch; weekend e-fares; local events; hot deals; links to other cities; and maps. (col 10: lines 61-64)

Referring to claim 23:

The system of Claim 18, further comprising:

Means for filtering out travel information not relevant to said home location. (col 4: lines 32-35, 42-45; col 11: lines 1-4)

Referring to claim 24:

The system of Claim 18, further comprising:

A multi-hierarchical schema for organizing geographical regions to facilitate determining relevant travel information, wherein content in said regions overlap. (col 8: lines 51-67; col 9: 1-33; col 10: lines 62-63)

Referring to claim 25:

The system of Claim 24, wherein geographical regions comprise urban regions.
(col 9: lines 1-9)

Referring to claim 26:

The system of Claim 25, wherein said urban regions comprise content from other nearby and relevant cities associated with said home location. (col 9: lines 25-32; col 10: lines 61-63)

Referring to claim 27:

A method for providing travel information to an end user in an intelligent way using a search result, said method comprising:

Receiving a request for travel information; (col 4: lines 7-10)

Processing said request into a query; (col 4: lines 7-10)

Tagawa does not expressly disclose a context determination module. However, Tagawa discloses as an example of his invention that if the user presses the button for local or intrastate tour packages 216, CPU 78 would activate the routing therefor as illustrated in FIGS. 7A-7C. Following the audio visual introduction to local and intrastate tour packages, a menu will appear listing the major packages (blocks 400, 402). For example, in the Hawaii market, the major tour packages will be trips between the islands. From the island of Oahu, tours will be offered to Kauai, Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Hawaii (the Big Island). (col 14: lines 16-24) From this disclosure it is obvious that when a user interacts with Tagawa's kiosk and enters request for travel information for local or intrastate tour packages, the context is automatically determined. Without the user entering any additional information other than the travel information request, the

context is automatically determined that the user is interested in traveling within the Hawaii islands. Then a search is done automatically without interaction with a human agent, and a list of possible results is presented to the user.

Automatically searching a database according to said query and context for a search result, without any interaction with a human agent, (col 14: lines 38-40)

Wherein said search result comprises said travel information in a singular, concise and consistent format, thereby providing ease of use for an end user, (Fig 12) and

Returning said search result to said end user. (col 4: lines 25-27)

Referring to claim 28:

The method of Claim 27 further comprising:

Providing a feed retrieval system; (col 10: lines 17-20, 24-31)

Providing a database coupled to said feed retrieval system; (Fig 2c)

Wherein said feed system receives content from a plurality of internal and external partners; (col 10: lines 17-20) and

Organizing said content for efficient storage by said database for easy retrieval. (col 10: lines 24-31)

Referring to claim 29:

The method of Claim 28, wherein said feed retrieval system further comprises:

A rules-based engine for said obtaining said content from said internal and external partners and storing said content into said database in a format used by a search engine. (col 4: lines 10-14, 24-27)

Referring to claim 34:

The method of Claim 27, further comprising:

Providing lookup tables for determining matches to facilitate processing said request into said query. (col 4: lines 11-14, 24-27)

Referring to claim 36:

The method of Claim 27 further comprising:

Analyzing a plurality of context determining categories;(col 4: lines 23-25, 36-38, 64-66; col 5: lines 22-33) and
determining at least one context determining category. (col 14: lines 39-40)

Referring to claim 37:

The method of Claim 36, wherein said plurality of context determining categories comprises at least:

A destination; and

An interest. (col 14: lines 16-17)

Referring to claim 38:

The method of Claim 27, wherein said search result comprising the following travel categories:

Destination guides; canned keywords; local events; low air fares; hot deals; and lodging. (col 10: lines 60-64)

Referring to claim 39:

The method of Claim 27, wherein said travel information comprises static and dynamic information. (col 10: lines 24-31)

Referring to claim 40:

The method of Claim 39, wherein said dynamic information comprises any of:

Local events; low air fares; a hot deal and; a fare watch. (col 10: line 25-29)

Referring to claim 44:

The method of Claim 27, further comprising:

Providing a local escape feature, wherein said local escapes feature uses a home location to provide particular travel information. (col 4: lines 33-35, 42-45)

Referring to claim 45:

The method of Claim 44, further comprising:

determining said home location when not provided by an end user. (col 11: lines 1-4)

Referring to claim 46:

The method of Claim 44, wherein said home location is selected from a list of predetermined home locations. (col 8: lines 55-60; col 9: lines 10-15)

Referring to claim 47:

The method of Claim 46, wherein said list of predetermined home locations comprises: at least fifty predetermined cities or home airports. (col 9: lines 10-15)

Referring to claim 48:

The method of Claim 44, wherein said provided travel information comprises any of: a fare watch; weekend e-fares; local events; hot deals; links to other cities; and maps. (col 10: lines 61-64)

Referring to claim 49:

The method of Claim 44, further comprising:

filtering out travel information not relevant to said home location. (col 4: lines 32-35, 42-45; col 11: lines 1-4)

Referring to claim 50:

The method of Claim 44, further comprising:

Providing a multi-hierarchical schema for organizing geographical regions to facilitate determining relevant travel information, wherein content in said regions overlap. (col 8: lines 51-67; col 9: 1-33; col 10: lines 62-63)

Referring to claim 51:

The method of Claim 50, wherein geographical regions comprise urban regions. (col 9: lines 1-9)

Referring to claim 52:

The method of Claim 51, wherein said urban regions comprise content from other nearby and relevant cities associated with said home location. (col 9: lines 25-32; col 10: lines 61-63)

Referring to claim 61:

The system of Claim 1, further comprising:

A multi-hierarchical schema for organizing at least one geographical region to facilitate determining relevant travel information. (col 8: lines 51-67; col 9: 1-33)

Wherein said multi-hierarchical schema comprises levels of a state, a region within said state, and cities within said region. (col 10: lines 62-63).

6. Claims 4, 5, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tagawa in view of U.S. Pat No. 6,457,009 to Bollay.

Tagawa discloses in his invention a travel scheduling system that allows users to search for relevant travel information based on numerous categories. Tagawa does not disclose custom coded forms supplied to partners for facilitating obtaining travel information. Tagawa also does not disclose that the forms are in XML format.

Bollay discloses in his invention that a generic HTML form is filled in, and then translation is done on the form from a uniform field name to an actual name used by a corresponding remote database. (col 2: lines 44-49)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Tagawa's invention to include custom generated forms that can be supplied to partners to facilitate information gathering. One would be motivated to perform such modification to allow a standardized form being used by the partners to facilitate obtaining travel information.

Regarding claims 5 and 31. Bollay does not explicitly state that the forms can also be coded in standard languages other than HTML, e.g. XML. The examiner takes official notice that forms coded in XML format are not a new feature. XML is another standardized language similar to HTML. Example can be found in U.S. Pat No. 6,697,967 to Robertson (col 2: lines 20-24)

7. Claims 6, 7, 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tagawa in view of U.S. Pat No. 6,601,059 to Fries.

Tagawa discloses in his invention a travel scheduling system that allows users to search for relevant travel information based on numerous categories. Tagawa does not disclose a spell check service to provide correct spelling of an intended word, and the means of providing suggestions on alternate spelling or relevant phrases, or means for setting ambiguity among words or phrases having similar parts.

Fries discloses in his invention a method of providing a visual cue to the user to indicate that the search query includes a misspelled word. The method also includes a step of providing lists of possible spellings for the misspelled words and allowing the user to select one of the possible spellings from the list. The method then replaces the misspelled word with the selected spelling to produce modified text. (col 1: lines 54-63)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Tagawa's invention to include the spell checker that will notify the misspelled word, and then suggest alternatives. One would be motivated to perform such modification to assist the end user in providing correct spelling of an intended word so the search query with the word or phrase can be more effective.

8. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tagawa in view of U.S. Pat No. 5,408,417 to Wilder.

Tagawa discloses files server 112 controls the storing, updating and fetching of information in local visitor attraction inventory. (col 10: lines 25-27) Tagawa however, does not expressly disclose that local events comprises a concert.

Wilder discloses in his invention a automated ticket sales system that show upcoming events and attractions in the area, events such as concerts, sports, etc. (col 3: lines 10-13; col 6: lines 3-5)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Tagawa's invention to include concerts information within the local events. One would be motivated to perform such modification to allow users reserve local functions that is of interest to the users.

9. Claims 15-17 and 41-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tagawa in view of www.travelocity.com.

Tagawa discloses in his invention a travel scheduling system that allows users to search for relevant travel information based on numerous categories. Tagawa does not disclose that the travel information is presented in one web page; that the web page comprises links for linking more detailed information; and that the more detail information comprises information reflecting and associated with one or more than one of said context determining categories.

www.travelocity.com discloses a web server with travel information presented in one web page. The web page also includes links to more detail information, and the information reflects one or more than one of the context determining categories.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Tagawa's invention to include the web page from www.travelocity.com that has links for more detailed information reflecting the

context determining categories. One would be motivated to perform such modification to allow users to obtain travel information at places other than the plurality of kiosk described by Tagawa.

10. Claims 53-56, 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tagawa in view of "The Never-Ending Quest: Search Engine Relevance" by Notes, Greg R.

Regarding claim 53,

Tagawa discloses

Receiving a search request for travel information from said end user; (col 4: lines 7-10)

Tagawa does not expressly disclose a context determination module. However, Tagawa discloses as an example of his invention that if the user presses the button for local or intrastate tour packages 216, CPU 78 would activate the routing therefor as illustrated in FIGS. 7A-7C. Following the audio visual introduction to local and intrastate tour packages, a menu will appear listing the major packages (blocks 400, 402). For example, in the Hawaii market, the major tour packages will be trips between the islands. From the island of Oahu, tours will be offered to Kauai, Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Hawaii (the Big Island). (col 14: lines 16-24) From this disclosure it is obvious that when a user interacts with Tagawa's kiosk and enters request for travel information for local or intrastate tour packages, the context is automatically determined. Without the user entering any additional information other than the travel information request, the

Art Unit: 3628

context is automatically determined that the user is interested in traveling within the Hawaii islands. Then a search is done automatically without interaction with a human agent, and a list of possible results is presented to the user.

Wherein said context comprises at least an interest and a destination. (col 14: lines 16-17)

Tagawa discloses querying a travel information database for interest, and if the interest is matched, returning the travel information. (col 11: lines 1-26)

Tagawa discloses querying a travel information database for destination, and if the destination is match, returning the travel information. (col 4: lines 23-27)

However, Tagawa does not expressly disclose if a match for interest is not matched, then querying for a destination from the travel information database.

However, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to follow the travel interest query with travel destination query if an place of interest that matches the user's interest is not found. The motivation for Tagawa to perform such a function because it is well known in the arts that companies would not want to give up a potential customer, Tagawa discloses "if no seats are available on the preferred carrier the system will offer alternatives using other airlines." (col 15: lines 52-54) to show that if a result cannot be found for a customer, then the query is re-run with a different set of restrains to see if a result can be found for the customer to keep the customer using the services provided by the company. Therefore, if a customer cannot find a place of interest to travel to then the travel reservation system would allow the customer to plan

Art Unit: 3628

his travel according to destination, so the company would be able to keep the user as a paying customer instead of allowing the user to travel with another company.

Tagawa does not expressly disclose that if both interest and destination query returned no matches, then a spell check tool is invoked, and the process of querying the first and second database is repeated;

Notes discloses in his article that search engines crawl through databases querying for relevant search results, and presents them when found. (Abstract) Notes also disclose that search engine AltaVista offers spelling suggestions, and searches with the alternate spelling. (SPELLING AND BAD QUERIES)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Tagawa's invention to include the search strategy and spell checking disclosed by Notes of the search engines. One would be motivated to perform such modification to have systematic way of searching a plurality of databases and ensure that the search is accurate and not effected by misspellings.

Regarding claim 54, Tagawa does not expressly disclose that if all query attempts are exhausted, a simple text search is perform.

However, it is obvious that Tagawa's invention has the ability to perform text based search, since Tagaw discloses inputting origin and destination information for reservation of plane tickets(col 4: lines 24-28), and it is well know in the arts that origin and destination is comprised of text.

Regarding claim 55, Tagawa discloses the data input by the user in response to such queries would then be used to narrow down the search process of the choices that match the user's needs. (col 2: lines 65-67)

Regarding claim 56, Tagawa discloses options of local visitor attractions, local lodging, local U-drive cars, local or intrastate tour packages, airline tickets, out-of-state tour packages, cruises and other shopping options. (col 10: lines 61-63)

Regarding claim 66, Tagawa discloses a search mechanism that determines a category for which a user is requesting information, wherein said category comprises:
(Fig 3)

An interest; and(col 11: lines 1-16)

A destination. (col 4: lines 22-28)

Conclusion

11. Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that the applicant, in preparing the responses, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rob Wu whose telephone number is (571)272-3136. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571)272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

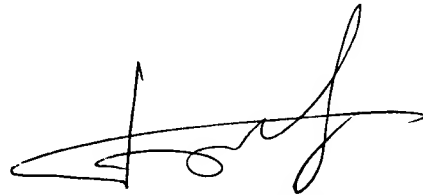


IGOR N. BORISSOV
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Art Unit: 3628

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

rw



IGOR N. BORISSOV
PRIMARY EXAMINER